

Routes to tour in Germany

The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there – to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both. The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



- 1 Brunswick
- 2 An old Lüneburg Heath farmhouse
- 3 The Harz
- 4 Göttingen

DZT
DEUTSCHE ZENTRUM
FÜR TOURISMUS
Beethovenstraße 68, D-6000 Frankfurt



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Moscow: much more than just another Summit

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Just as in space research in its day, US Ostpolitik is now on the move, with things happening that no-one would have dreamt of a few years ago.

This point was mentioned by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, in an unusually detailed interview with the American Press.

(The unusual seems to be the order of day in relations between Moscow and Washington at present.)

Who, indeed, would have thought that Mr Reagan of all people would negotiate the first genuine disarmament treaty with the Soviets?

The climax of the Moscow summit was originally intended to be a ceremony at which a wide-eyed public was to witness the signing of a Start Treaty halving the superpowers' strategic weapon stockpiles.

Instead the Americans succeeded just in time in seeing the more modest preliminary, the INF Treaty signed in Washington last December, through Congress.

Mr Reagan has, in an interview of his own, even referred to Mr Gorbachov as a friend.

He of all Presidents, a man who opposed the detente policy pursued by his predecessors and embarked on an enormous arms build-up, has now outdone them all with his East Bloc contacts.

No US President before him has conferred so often with a Soviet leader. Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov met in Moscow for the fourth time, and the US leader is reportedly thinking in terms of a fifth encounter.

This impressive background must not be forgotten in the context of day-to-day political debate on difficulties and problems that constantly beset disarmament talks and negotiations in other sectors, especially on human rights and regional conflicts.

Yet here too the Americans cannot but admit that progress has been made. US negotiators may continue to call for Soviet dissidents to be given clear legal rights to freedom of opinion or guaranteed permission to leave the country.

Even in American eyes, however, glasnost and perestroika have already made substantial headway. They both hope to jointly make, or at least pave the way for, the next major step forward in disarmament.

Mr Gorbachov has already had to gain a free hand for his constantly threatened programme of domestic reforms, while Mr Reagan is keen to make his mark on history.

They have long succeeded in one respect: a new era of detente has begun.

US officials well recall that until recently the Soviet Union dismissed any mention of human rights as intervention in their domestic affairs.

The Reagan administration prides itself on the political achievement of having managed to ensure that such tricky issues are regularly discussed by the superpowers.

And they aren't just discussed. Ethnic Germans and Jews are being allowed to leave the Soviet Union again in larger numbers.

There is Afghanistan too, where the war may not, by any stretch of the imagination, yet be over, but the Soviet troop withdrawal has resolved the most hotly debated regional issue as far as both superpowers are concerned.

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is rightly rated most highly in Washington as a contribution toward improving the atmosphere.

It remains to be seen whether Afghanistan will serve as a model for and an impetus to settlements soon in other conflict areas.

In the disarmament debate, which is rife with devilish details, the superpowers bit off more than they could chew.

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Instead the Americans succeeded just in time in seeing the more modest preliminary, the INF Treaty signed in Washington last December, through Congress.

Yet even if this target is not fully achieved in time the US Presidential candidates George Bush and Michael Dukakis both convey the impression of being keen to keep up the good work.

Having said that, the standstill that every new US administration seems to need before it gets off the ground could well occur.

And Mr Gorbachov has good reason for wanting to pre-empt any such delay. Now President Reagan has been converted to detente its future seems to be assured in America for the time being.

So Mr Gorbachov will doubtless do all he can to make full use of the time left to the Reagan administration.

It is certainly worthwhile enjoying the unusual photographs showing Ronald Reagan in the Kremlin and in cordial conversation with Soviet citizens.

"Painful" progress may be a light this time, but the Moscow summit testifies to a routine of US-Soviet encounters that do the world in general and Europe in particular a power of good.

Rainer Bonhöfner

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 28 May 1988)



Trunk road

A surprise visitor turned up at a meeting of European transport ministers in Luxembourg. A German circus was in town. At extreme left is Bonn Transport Minister Jürgen Warnke. (Photo: AP)

Euro defence ministers on the defensive

European Defence Ministers spent two days at Nato headquarters in Brussels practising the noble art of self-defence against US allegations of taking it easy.

As the US Presidential election campaign gathers momentum more and more politicians in Washington are accusing America's European allies of sheltering behind US forces and spending far too little on defence.

Such laments may be popular with the US public, but they have more to do with the Presidential election than with what is happening in Europe.

Europ group Nato member-states were able to point out that their defence spending has increased steadily for years and that they account for 95 per cent of Nato divisions in Europe.

Besides, many burdens Europeans bear, from conscription to the noise of low-flying military aircraft, cannot be costed in dollars and cents.

Yet European Nato countries are on the defensive. They were forced to admit in Brussels that the United States looked after Western, and thus European, interests outside Nato territory.

So there is nothing absurd about Washington's demand for its European allies in return to pay more of their domestic costs.

The Europeans resorted to delaying tactics in Brussels, resisting US attacks and bailing a slow retreat.

It will be autumn before we know whether this approach has been a success.

That is when a decision is to be reached on the finances of Nato's infrastructure.

There can be no doubt that US pressure will meanwhile unrelentingly urge America's European allies to fork out more cash.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 May 1988)

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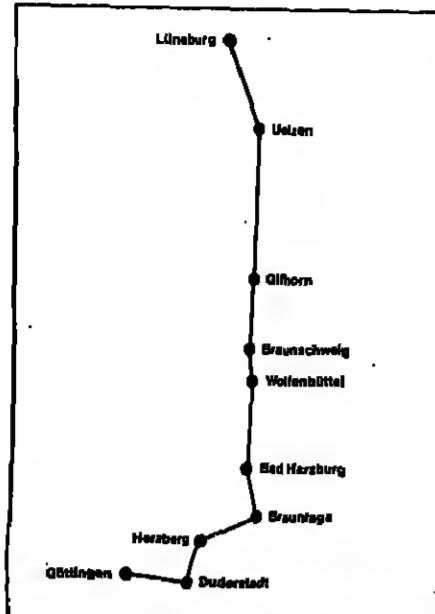
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The summit had to make do with exchanging the ratification documents of the INF Treaty scrapping land-based medium-range missiles.

A further paper seemed likely to document the state of the strategic arms negotiations and to underscore hopes of further, swifter progress.

In the crucial sector of US-Soviet summit diplomacy progress is thus proving slower than had been hoped, but it would be wrong to dismiss the Moscow summit as empty play-acting.

President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov have, for different reasons, an equally keen interest in making a success of their interplay.

They both hope to jointly make, or at least pave the way for, the next major step forward in disarmament.

President Reagan may be right to gain a free hand for his constantly threatened programme of domestic reforms, while Mr Reagan is keen to make his mark on history.

They have long succeeded in one respect: a new era of detente has begun.



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■ TRADE

Japan takes its factories to the world

The Japanese Prime Minister, Noboru Takeshita, has been visiting Germany. There was no one major purpose for the visit, but economic relations did play a big role.

Japan is not only an exporter. It manufactures in other countries. The change came during the 1980s as a result of increasing pressure from America and Europe, both of whom feared the repercussions of increasing Japanese imports. A later cause was the rise of the yen.

The change, the most extensive for Japanese industry since the war, was only achieved after a great amount of soul-searching.

Japanese industrialists thought that quality could not be maintained in production works overseas. One firm, motor manufacturer Toyota, kept on saying as much publicly.

But now there are hundreds of Japanese factories in various parts of the world. Japanese industry has simply become more international.

This is obvious in many aspects. Foreign employees can be found in most company headquarters in Tokyo or Osaka. "Japanese" cars are supplied in Japan from plant in the United States.

Led by the major Japanese conglomerates Japanese industry is on the point of creating for itself a new infrastructure covering the whole world.

Two different systems can be observed in this process. First, Japanese firms are striving more vigorously to use the services of other Japanese firms abroad. This means that more and more auxiliary suppliers are being encouraged to set up abroad.

Volkswagen in Mexico, for instance,

are worried that the Japanese are not only expanding their competitive car production but are also penetrating the auxiliary suppliers' industry.

This explains why there are already more than 300 Japanese industrial enterprises in the United States with something like the same number preparing to set up in the US.

The Japanese have taken seriously demands from abroad that Japanese companies should increase the local contribution to real net output and not set up plant abroad that called for just simple assembly methods.

Second, however, major Japanese

concerns are trying hard, in many cases under the influence of their auxiliary suppliers, to set up an interlinked system in the Far East, making it possible to profit from the low wages in this region while introducing a flexibility that increases their ability to resist trading thunderstorms.

This tendency is particularly marked in the motor industry. Labour-intensive production operations are being transferred to countries with cheap labour costs.

Up to the end of March there were 1,012 foreign firms in Peking; 333 from Japan, 174 from Hong Kong, 170 from the United States and only 67 from Germany.

The Chinese press recently gave a sign of the way things will be going in future. A list of 100 manufacturers from mini-houses, tools to refrigerators hit the headlines.

The importation of the items in the list was to be banned because they would be replaced by domestically-produced wares.

The key-words are "import substitution," which many countries in the Third World took up unsuccessfully.

But China has the resources to produce goods and iron out quality problems, that hedge many sectors.

But that is not all. The next step for the country's leadership is to export these products. The pre-requisites for this are there.

The know-how available is astonishing. The computer-technology under the brand-name "Great Wall" has been astonishing, and the successes in space and genetic technology spectacular. These are typical examples of Chinese achievements.

The sense of starting-off into a glowing industrial future and the adoption of western life-styles in the cities (that begin with an American Kentucky Fried Chicken take-away close to the Mao Mausoleum and end up at advertising posters with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck) are only one side of China.

This helps to save costs and overcome trading barriers.

The Japanese electrical engineering industry is not far behind the car manufacturers. In one respect it is ahead of the automobile industry.

Universally, Japanese manufacturers will in future offer under their own trade-mark cars originating from South Korea, Taiwan or one day from countries in South-East Asia.

It seems that the fragmentation of German markets is built into the system. Market shares could be creamed off which cannot be won back.

Warnings from German banks to

Continued on page 7

The European Community and Comecon, the East Bloc trading group, are to sign a declaration this month which will amount to recognition of each other. The main obstacle, the question of Berlin, appears to have been negotiated. This report appeared in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

After long and tough negotiations, the final obstacle to a joint declaration between the European Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) has been removed.

A declaration has been under discussion since 1985. It is to be signed in the second week of June and will be followed by the establishment of official relations.

The deal was sealed by Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann, who went to Moscow to talk in his capacity as president of the European Council of Ministers. The controversial problem of the "West Berlin clause" was resolved along with other lesser problems.

The East Bloc countries backed down from their original stance by allowing West Berlin to be included in the declaration with the usual reference "for the area of application" of the Treaty of Rome.

At the same time most member states

held talks on separate agreements. Apart from establishing official relations between the two organisations, the "joint declaration" envisages cooperation in fields in which there are "reciprocal responsibilities and mutual interests."

The "West Berlin clause" was the only obstacle over the last year or so.

The European Community has traditionally made express reference in all agreements with non-Community countries to the fact that all arrangements apply to the area covered by the Treaty of Rome, which includes West Berlin.

The Comecon tried to do incorporate a supplementary clause in negotiations that existing treaties and agreements (such as the Four Power Agreement and other regulations dealing with Berlin) would not be affected by any agreement between the European Community and the Comecon.

The European Community rejected the various attempts to qualify the content of the agreement.

As in the case of previous agreements with individual East Bloc countries it was agreed that the Comecon would only make a separate declaration stating that the Four Power Agreement will not be affected by the West Berlin clause in the joint declaration.

After Mikhail Gorbachev became Secretary-General of the CPSU the Comecon renewed its initiative and accepted the previous "joint declaration" proposal made by Brussels.

At the same time most member states

can only survive and remain in the forefront of technical progress with a maximum of flexibility as regards labour and a minimum of permanent employees.

Obviously social change is linked to this. The Japanese are of the view, however, that they will also succeed in this shift.

Peter Odrich
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 5 May 1988)

There is now in the country a younger generation that has learned more of the outside world through television than any other generation. They dream of a better way of life.

The world will look forward excitedly to what this generation of Chinese will achieve in the future.

Wolfgang Mayer
(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 14 May 1988)

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 May 1988)

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■ COMPUTERS

Smaller firms slow to accept electronic data banks

There are 3,700 commercial data banks worldwide. The 278 German electronic archives account for a mere 2.5 per cent of world turnover. The Infobase Fair in Frankfurt conveyed an impressive idea of the prospects in what is clearly a growth industry.

Birgit Süss, a development engineer, keeps a close computer eye on the competition. She works in Pforzheim, Swabia, for Krohne Messtechnik, a Duisburg firm specialising in measuring and surveying equipment.

Sitting at her desk in a Tübingen suburb, she does not need to look far to find out what is new in the world's few metrology markets.

She just switches on her personal computer and dials a data bank — in this case a data bank specialising in parts.

Within minutes she has an overview of the international situation and can help her boss to decide which markets are most promising for which products.

A swift and invaluable aid, you might imagine, yet despite annual growth rates of 25 per cent data bank enquiries in this kind are still the exception in Germany, especially in small and medium-sized firms.

They are mainly used by large companies and representatives of technology transfer agencies. They are recently at Infobase, one of the smallest (and one of the most exclusive) trade fairs in Frankfurt, with 136 exhibitors.

Infobase is a relative newcomer to the trade fair schedule, as are data banks themselves in Germany. It was held for the fourth time in Frankfurt.

The wait-and-see attitude of the potential clientele cannot be explained in terms of a shortage of data. There are 3,700 commercial data banks, and about half were represented in Frankfurt.

Scientists are most familiar with the idea of data retrieval from computer archives. The 278 German data banks do roughly half their business, an estimated aggregate turnover of DM350m, in chemistry and chemicals.

The market leader among economics data banks, which are now coming into their own, is said to be Genios, a system set up by the Handelsblatt financial newspaper group in Düsseldorf.

for the information he has actually taken in full.

And: "Every businessman has at some stage made a mistaken decision that has cost him more than that."

Zech is particularly proud of Quasimodo, a user system that is said not to require any previous computer know-how.

Bertelsmann charge a basic fee of DM800 for access to their electronic archives. It includes a two-day course on how to use the system.

There are so many retrieval languages that some users lose patience. An estimated 60 computer languages are certainly a tall order for potential users.

Renate Barthel of the Ruhr Technology Advice Bureau, which is run by the Ruhr Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bochum, says: "Our three specialists are fluent in all retrieval languages."

Kali Chemie of Hanover have more specialised interests, yet they too found that data retrieval staff needed to learn 17 computer languages.

Many experts feel this is often the crucial handicap that deters potential data bank users, but Kali Chemie's Trautwiller Vogel says:

"Learning the retrieval language is not the most important point. The crux of the matter is finding out what information is available in the system."

It would then seem to make sense for a chemist to sound out the information stored in a data bank specialising in chemistry and chemicals.

What prospective employers need is a specialist with experience in finding his way round the electronic data jungle.

That is why Düsseldorf patent lawyer Helge B. Cuhauz and nearly all smaller firms have yet to sound out. A Wiesbaden firm, for instance, has geared up for the use of personal computers in the art trade, in picture archives and at museums.

Is it the cost that deters potential data bank users? A comparison with world markets would make that seem unlikely.

German data banks have seven per cent of the international data stock in trade, as it were, but account for a mere 2.5 per cent of world turnover.

Does that mean they offer their services at bargain basement rates? "In cost terms that could well be the case," Zech of Genios says, "as we are still in the red."

No-one, he adds, has any intention of keeping a new market artificially small. Besides, customers who already have computers and peripherals pay a very modest price.

"The cash risk is a mere DM250." That is the registration, or search fee. Other than that the customer pays only

Warning about sabotage risk 'misplaced'

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Computer bugs that have infected data processing systems in Israel do not pose a threat to data banks in Germany, says the Federal government.

Government spokesman Friedelichs Ost sounded a reassuring note in Bonn after warnings issued by the Chaos Computer Club, Hamburg.

Klaus Brünstein, the Hamburg information science professor, agrees. He says there has not yet been the slightest sign of the bug posing a threat to computers in the Federal Republic.

The Hamburg computer club called on the Bonn government to take preventive action along the lines that have proved necessary in Israel.

Computer bugs are program routines clandestinely introduced into the system that can change system or user programs and destroy data.

Herr Ost told the government press conference in Bonn there were no data links between German government computers and computers in Israel.

Experts from the Mathematics and Data Processing Research Establishment (GMD) in St. Augustin, near Bonn, who are in touch with Israeli computers via international data networks say the bug seems largely restricted to personal computers.

The Chaos Computer Club claimed the Israeli bug could be a politically motivated act of sabotage in connection with the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel.

It could arguably be a "logical time-bomb" scheduled to explode on the anniversary, 13 May, and destroy all available data (it didn't — Ed.).

Users who might be affected and had no debugging program of their own were advised not to use MS DOS computers on the day, especially for vital work in hospitals, supply facilities and the military context.

MS DOS, the disk operating system developed by Multisoft Corp., is the most widespread operating system used in personal computers.

Michael Kuntz
(Die Welt, Bonn, 13 May 1988)

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 13 May 1988

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■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

George, the automatic pilot, is biding his time

WELT SONNTAG

Electronic systems already exist that in theory can automatically control the flow of traffic on trunk roads.

Volkswagen research staff presented one such system at this year's Hanover Fair.

Devised as part of the Prometheus project, a joint research venture by European motor manufacturers, it stands no chance of being put into practice for at least 20 years.

Like a real live motorist, the computer concentrates on the roadside and on keeping the vehicle in lane.

A wide-angle lens camera keeps a photographic eye on the road immediately ahead for this purpose, while a second camera with a zoom lens checks more distant objects.

Their photos are relayed to a real-time photoprocessing system. About a dozen processors work in parallel, each handling a specific section of the picture.

Contrasts are identified and edges (such as the kerb or roadside) sought and compared with previous information and analyses.

These data are also compared with the computer's internal "model."

These are self-evident transactions from the motorist's point of view. We all look at the road ahead with an eye for sudden differences from the road that went before it.

The computer uses these analyses as a basis for its instructions on how to handle the car.

The Munich project is still in its early days. Unmanned driving along roads with obstacles is now being simulated.

This summer the truck is scheduled to run in traffic along a test track closed to normal traffic.

As on most test runs so far, a driver will in fact be at the ready to intervene if necessary.

It set up its world record on 12 August 1987, having more than once at top speed along the 20 km (12-mile) test run.

To look at, it is no different from any other small truck of its kind. But inside it is fitted out with a veritable electronic laboratory.

It consists of two computers (a standard IBM AT and a specially devised unit). Between them they process pictures taken by twin video cameras on a rotating platform attached to the dashboard.

The computers evaluate this information and work the accelerator, brakes and steering accordingly.

Backed as a road safety project by the Federal Research Ministry in Bonn, the Neubiberg project group is said by Ernst Diekmann and Volker Graefe, the Munich professors in charge of the experiment, to be the most advanced system of its kind in the world.

Automated vehicles can travel faster than about 20 kmh (12 mph).

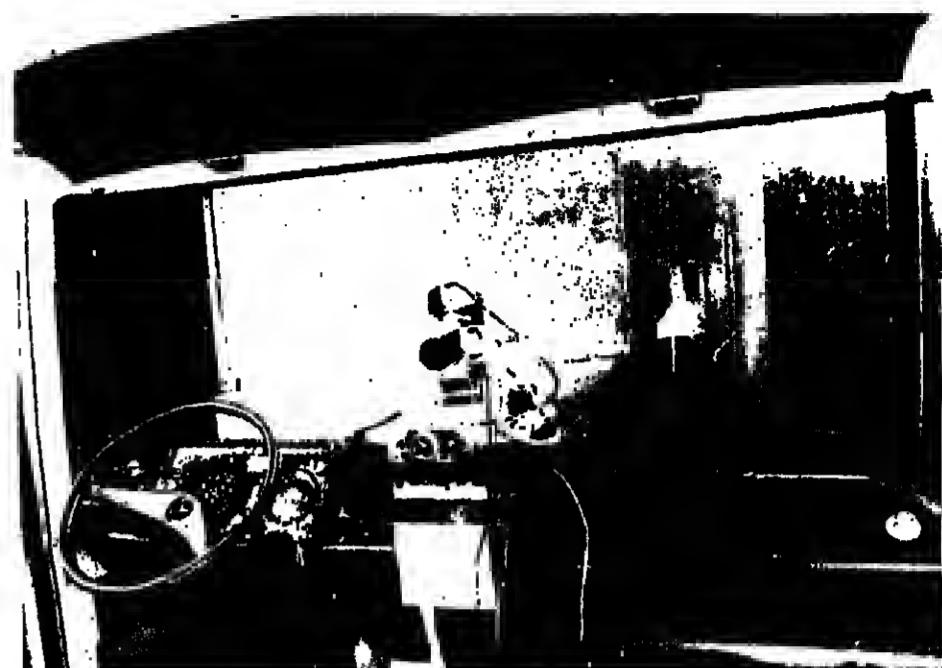
The Neubiberg project group departs from conventional approaches to unmanned motoring.

"The video film relays an enormous quantity of photographic data," the two professors say, "whereas we are only interested in two factors, acceleration and steering, to handle the car."

That poses the basic problem of reducing the sheer volume of data and filtering out the essential information on which to base an accurate interpretation of the traffic situation.

The Bundeswehr University research group opted for a pragmatic approach. How, they wondered, did the human driver set about the task?

Motorists concentrate on specific details, such as the kerb, bends and other



A portrait of George, Mercedes automated truck with mounted video cameras.

Lots of technical safety aids — and accidents as well

ETC by Volvo, prevents skidding when cars are started on a slippery road. It also improves stability and reduces the risk of skidding en route.

Other features sound more modest yet can also be life-savers. They include mirrors in which drivers of articulated trucks can look round corners, all were.

There is also a rear-mounted camera that relays pictures of possible obstacles to a monitor screen in the driver's cab.

Two years before, the prototype of a truck with sophisticated safety features had been unveiled. It had been built by three firms in a joint venture sponsored by the Bonn government.

These two facts emphasise the gap between what is technically feasible and what really happens.

The prototype had many safety features such as four separate braking systems, the pedal brake, the hand brake, an engine brake and a fourth system known as a retarder.

The retarder consists of hockeysticks that run through an oil bath, eating up energy. The retarder keeps the conventional pedal brake cool on downhill sections — and ready for action.

The fatal crash might not have happened if the tanker had had a retarder.

The prototype also has both an anti-blocking system (ABS) and an anti-skid regulator (ASR).

These tell a computer as soon as one or more wheels start to spin. Pressure on the accelerator automatically eases until all wheels are turning normally.

ASR, known as ASC by BMW and

That brings us to the crux of the matter. Is extra safety worth the extra expense? In moral terms there can be no doubt that it is, but road hauliers are bound to think more in terms of marks and pfennigs.

They stand to lose little when a well-insured truck runs into a roadside ditch. As for the occasional child killed in traffic, that is just tough luck and doesn't actually affect costs.

A mere 1.7 per cent of new trucks are ordered with ABS systems, and even Daimler-Benz, the world's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, is at a loss how to boost this percentage.

As was the case with seat belts, legislation seems to be the only answer.

Legislation has been drafted in Bonn, and providing the Eurotrucks in Brussels pose no problems anti-blocking systems could be mandatory for commercial vehicles in a year or two.

The transition will probably be gradual, with an initial statutory requirement for trucks that carry dangerous goods — and, of course, only for new vehicles.

But we are used to slow vehicles in the crawler lane!

Bernd-Wilfried Kießler
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonnleitblatt, Hamburg, 8 May 1988)



This truck, a joint project by three makers, has a variety of safety features. It costs 500,000 marks.

■ MUSIC

The contradictions of an unloved genius — who was the real Richard Wagner?



The Dresden police issued a warrant for the arrest of Richard Wagner, the Royal Saxon Kapellmeister, on 16 May 1849.

He was described as between 37 and 38, of medium height, with brown hair and wearing spectacles.

He was involved in the abortive insurrection against the Saxon government that was only put down by the arrival of Prussian troops.

This all happened 139 years ago. But this year there is another reason for celebration among Wagnerians. He was born 175 years ago on 22 May 1813, at daybreak, on the second floor of a four-story house on the street Am Blüth in Leipzig — the original house was pulled down in 1886.

There is much activity in Bayreuth to celebrate this anniversary of the composer's birth. A new production of *The Ring of the Nibelung* is to be staged and an eerie picture exhibition is to go on tour.

The exhibition "Degenerate Music," that the Nazis produced in Düsseldorf in 1938 to indoctrinate the Germans, has been reproduced, but this time with comment.

At the beginning of the exhibition there is a board with the heading "Spiritual Forerunners." There is then a quotation from an article by Wagner which appeared in two parts in September 1850 under the headline: "Music and the Jews."

He wrote of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: "Everything that serves in the examination of one's antipathy against all things Jewish, every contradiction in the Jewish character in itself and against us, the inability of this character, standing beyond our world but nevertheless frequenting it with us, rises up to a completely tragic conflict in the nature, the life, the art of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy who died so young."

Are these the words of a social revolutionary who is at the same time antisemitic?

Richard Wagner's music reveals him to be one of our most gifted artists, hand-picked to make our existence more bearable with art.

But nevertheless on Wagner's birthday we pay honour to a man it is not easy to honour. In music Wagner is a much-unloved genius.

His musical invention lends us to the pinnacle of originality that man is capable of. But for more than a hundred years producers have tampered with the contents of his musical dramas.

Many conductors would prefer to dispense with the significance of the extraordinary message of his music because so much in it seems to them questionable. They take the view that this harms the impression of the music.

Little is said about Wagner's life. His deeds show us too clearly of what a man can be capable apart from his vocation.

From the very outset his character was full of contradictions. He was among other things a philosopher of world redemption and anti-semitic, a revolutionary and a salaried employee

of the Bavarian King Ludwig II — whom he allowed to pay for an élite music festival.

The churuses from *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin* have penetrated into the consciousness of a socially-wide audience, but Wagner the man has never reached the souls of the many through his works.

It is easy to weave affectionate legends around Mozart. Beethoven in his solitariness fills us with wonder. We even think of ourselves closer to Bach than to Wagner, and Bach was born 128 years before Wagner.

Nevertheless he wrote to his wife Cosima in 1881 at the age of 68, two years before his death, commenting wickedly on the fire at the Hoftheater in Vienna that all Jews should be incarcerated together in a performance of Lessing's *Nathan the Wise*.

His contempt for Jews, that grew into hate, was a character trait of a kind that cannot be noted in what we know about other great artists.

Wagner's music has conquered the world. It then seems appropriate to ask on the 175th anniversary of his birth who was the man behind the 39 works he gave us, or more particularly the 14 music dramas he wrote.

In our dealings with other composers we know that their lives are a key to their art.

The great barrier to understanding Wagner the man is his strong anti-semitism. Increasingly he regarded the Jews as guilty of all the misery in the world. He also made them responsible for the messes he got into himself.

The "mister," and he insisted on being so called, lived the high life which he paid for with credit. In his youth in Magdeburg he had had to "go to the damned Jewish vermin" for money.

His hate later in life recalls what according to Hitler the Germans had to worry about.

Many composers were mis-used by the Nazi cultural authorities. We have only to think of Anton Bruckner, whose music was so extensively misused all of a sudden as so proto-Germanic that his symphonies can only now be performed sporadically in the musical city of Prague.

Twisted culture

In Israel no-one wants to be reminded of a time when the German "master race" clothed its unjust system with a twisted culture.

Zohar Mehta came to grief a few years ago when he tried to give the prelude to Wagner's *Meistersinger* after a concert by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. There was chaos in the concert hall.

Unlike the case of the respectable Bruckner it is difficult to denounce the Nazis' treatment of the works of Richard Wagner.

But Wagner cannot be held responsible for the activities of his daughter-in-law, Winifred Wagner, who, after the Kapp Putsch sent manuscript paper to a certain Herr Adolf Hitler on which he could write his major opus, *Mein Kampf*, in 1923.

Wagner can be better regarded as a forerunner in his own writings and pronouncements. The Nazis did not have to falsify anything here.

The final sentence in *Music and the Jews* reads like a spiritual anticipation of Hitler's Final Solution. Wagner wrote: "But consider, that your salvation



Many things, but not an Idol... Richard Wagner. (Photo: Historia)

■ ARCHITECTURE

A snail-shell surprise, but not an unearthly vision

The new Science Centre in Berlin, designed by British architect James Stirling, is a building in which established tenets, causal connections and rational systems appear as a matter of principle to have been turned upside down, just as the logic of geometrical distribution of space seems to have been abandoned.

They were:

- the resumption of a dispute with history;
- the salvaging of a distinguished old Wilhelminian building;
- urban renewal in a sector where it was particularly badly needed;
- and a communicative link between research facilities previously scattered all over the city.

It would be equally unfair to accuse him of poking fun at the social sciences, which are to be housed in this unusual complex.

Yet how unexpected and how very much his own Stirling's interpretation of these four features has proved!

On first considering the ground plan of the design as submitted some commentators referred to a "comeback of history." They may now have to eat their words.

The juxtaposition of this strange design and phenomena such as the revaluation of the Middle Ages, the revival of interest in meditation, introspection and privacy and the jolt that has been given to blind belief in the omnipotence and voluntary role of science cannot be sheer coincidence.

Contemporaneously with all these entangled currents makes the latest work by "Big Jim" a substantial, "topical" and most "political" statement on architecture's behalf.

It hardly matters whether the new look is easy on the eye or provocative, attractive or ugly, flattering or ungainly.

When Stirling was awarded the con-

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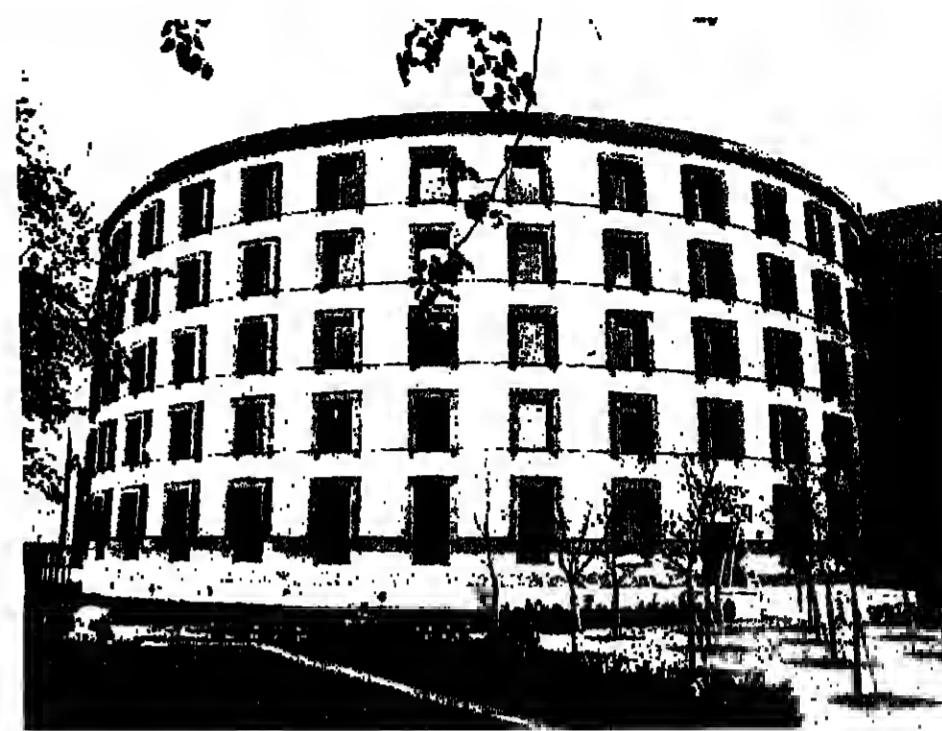
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Causally disconnected... Stirling's Berlin science centre. (Photo: Peter

metic character of a monastery rather than the openness of a university campus.

How do these impressions come about? For one, Stirling turns our customary views and expectations topsy-turvy.

The old building and the new in no way harmonise with or complement each other. They almost seem to disengage each other, as it were.

The old building is a torso with bare brick walls that stands for the break with the past; the striking new building behind it is painted in stripes, has recessed windows and seems somehow naked in two-tone pastel pink and blue.

This interface might be taken to constitute an illusion, or perhaps a mishap in the architect's concept, but we are much likelier to have been deliberately involved in a puzzle.

It includes staircase that lead nowhere, a pompous pergola ending at a side-door, bright yellow mushroom-shaped columns with boldly projecting capitals that partly support the building and partly support thin air.

Established tenets, causal connections and rational systems seem to have been turned upside down in this building as a consistent principle.

Nothing is unwavering, nothing is dependable, nothing is everlasting and the only one of its kind — or so the lesson to be learnt from this centre of academic scholarship would appear to be.

Stirling's design irritatingly combines historical features such as the Greek stoa, the amphitheatre of the Ancient World, the medieval cathedral, the Romanesque citadel, the Italian campanile.

He dissects them by rearrangement, alienates them to the point of non-recognition and fills them with new contents.

The pattern is repeated with the old building, a veteran of the late-19th century Wilhelminian style and era. Instead of a comeback of history what we are seeing is the undermining of its authority.

The features to which we are accustomed are shown to be transient and ephemeral, with the "church" housing the canteen and the "presbytery" the caravansary.

The concept of science undergoes a similar change. With short and straight axes being scrapped, as are direct routes, calculable circumstances and the strict logic of geometrical allocation of space.

The factory-like appearance of modern universities is here replaced by the snail-shell look. It may come as a surprise, but it is far from an unearthly vision.

Dankwart Garitzsch
(Die Welt, Berlin, 10 May 1988)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

The Chernobyl game: chill wind on a sunny day

Frankfurter Rundschau

More than 1,000 firemen, ambulance staff, radiation experts, doctors and civil defence officials took part in a simulated accident at a nuclear power plant.

An emergency clinic was set up in a school and a football stadium was used as a centre to test co-operation between authorities responsible for measuring radioactivity in the atmosphere, soil, water and plants.

The power station was Biblis, north of Ludwigshafen and Mainz on the Rhine. It is an open secret that the concrete shield of A block is not strong enough to withstand a direct hit if an aircraft crashed on to it. This fact added some piquancy: in recent months there have been several air crashes close to nuclear power stations.

Not only that. A week before the exercise, a switchgear fire broke out. Luckily it was outside the machine and reactor building, but it temporarily put B block out of action.

There are limits to what can be simulated. A civil-defence official said: "On paper, buses are available. But how, in practice, are you going to persuade anyone to drive into the fallout zone to evacuate people?"

On the day of the exercise, shoppers were put in force in the pedestrian precinct of nearby Heppenheim. Most were unaware of what was happening just round the corner in the local-government offices where district commissioner Dietrich Kassmann and a group of radiation protection experts were running the emergency control centre.

Radioactive fallout was assumed to have been high. The question was whether or not to evacuate several thousand people.

People in the streets of Heppenheim or Biblis may have noticed a police helicopter taking off from the pitch at Heppenheim soccer stadium.

Its simulated task was to rush samples of radioactive soil and air to Darmstadt for laboratory analysis.

When the fire that put B block out of action broke out, the turbines and reactor were immediately switched off and the four emergency diesel generators switched on to maintain the power supply to the reactor core and ensure that it didn't overheat.

It is an open secret that the concrete shield of A block would not withstand a direct hit if a plane were to crash into it. Important safety facilities outside the concrete shell are even more vulnerable.

As power station manager Fred Mayer told a group of visitors: "I would certainly prefer there to be no over-flights here or in the immediate vicinity."

This year's simulated accident was based on the assumption that after a shutdown only one of the four diesel generators worked — and it too broke down after a while.

The exercise assumed that a large amount of radioactivity was released within the reactor building in the acci-

dent, with some of it finding its way into the atmosphere.

People suffered from radioactive contamination and needed treatment in an emergency clinic.

Helge Schier, of the Hesse Ministry of Environmental Affairs, says this sequence of events roughly corresponds to what happened in Harrisburg a few years ago. It is still considered most unlikely to recur — despite Chernobyl.

The Ministry says: "As far as can be logically judged, nuclear power stations in the Federal Republic of Germany must be considered to be as safe as they can reasonably be expected to be."

"Yet despite this degree of safety a residual risk can never be entirely ruled out."

Preparations must thus be made for eventualities that go beyond the brink of what might reasonably be expected to happen.

On the outskirts of Heppenheim civil defence workers set up an emergency clinic in a school, with roughly 100 volunteers undergoing simulated decontamination treatment.

Another part of the exercise was cooperation between the various agencies entrusted with monitoring atmospheric, soil, water and plant contamination in such circumstances.

The measuring unit set up in business at the local soccer stadium, where aides converged with samples taken at nearly 150 sites and sealed in plastic.

In a genuine emergency these samples would be flown to Darmstadt and the laboratories of the Hesse environmental research establishment for an-

Continued from page 10

ing knew what he wanted. As a boy he saw Carl Marin von Weber in the Gewandhaus in Leipzig and swore to himself that he would one day command an orchestra in the same way.

The fact that he was a dictator cannot be explained by his surroundings. Other artists were less unscrupulous.

Wagner's arrogance was all-encompassing in that one is filled with astonishment at the way this man pursued his goals with such insolence. He tolerated no one else near the altar erected in him. He humiliated people when he encountered them.

Wagner's unrestrained use of people did not stop at women, of course, who from the beginning were under the spell of his music.

Music critics see in his heroines, Irene, Senta, Elisabeth, Elsa, Isolde and so on, women in the role of redeemers, but they are bent to redeem the master.

Outside the artistic world of his drama there were two categories of women: there was the woman who could heal all the sufferings of a shrewd man and then the woman who was prepared to give him what was his due — money to finance his self-portrayal.

Music critics see in his biography: "Money from women was not tainted, as opposed to money from the Jews."

In Cosima Richard Wagner found a third category of woman he was unaware existed. For 49 years after his death Cosima was the greatest sales-



I've got more bacquerels than you... accident simulation at Biblis nuclear power plant. (Photo: dpa)

ysis. A further aim of the proceedings was to test emergency communications between the *Länder* and to simulate decision-making at the emergency seat of government.

When, for instance, were iodine tablets to be issued, how many and to whom? On what basis might the decision to evacuate entire areas be taken?

There was no question of simulating a full-scale evacuation. That, the experts agreed, would be psychologically irresponsible.

Besides, the scenario merely envisaged heavy fallout in the immediate vicinity. No attention was paid to contamination outside the 25km disaster radius.

He now feels disaster relief management needs reorganisation. In the event of such serious incidents district officials are overtaxed, he feels.

Decisions ought to be reached at regional level.

Stephan Börnecke

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 April 1988)

woman of his music that the music business has ever known.

Wagner's unadorned judgment on women was: "Woman obtains her full individuality only in devotion."

Many women have a place in musical history, thanks to Wagner's preparedness to use women: Minna Wagner, Jessie Lauzon, Julie Ritter, Mathilde Westendorf and many others.

Marcuse came to this conclusion 35 years ago:

"In the year 1930, in which Wagner's widow died, a rare generation arose. It seemed fantastically like Rienzi, was clad radiantly like Lohengrin, strutted about like the young, cheeky Siegfried, tussled with its fellow citizens like Hans Sachs and bore on festive occasions a display of holiness like Parsifal personified. One was taking revenge for the dead master on the dead (Jewish) Meyerbeer."

"And Nuremberg was, as Wagner had recommended, the festival capital of the Holy Empire. The German spirit only needed 50 years after his death to cover the small stretch from Bayreuth to Nuremberg. The secret emperor emerged from his tomb.

"He saw a people who were better informed and who had more understanding, as Cosima had ordained. Cosima was dead. Siegfried was dead. Isolde was dead. Eva, the youngest, was still living."

"She announced to the Germans their saviour sent from God, Ludwig's and Wilhelm's legacy, Lohengrin the Third, that is Adolf Hitler."

Michael Vogt

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 14 May 1988)

■ BEHAVIOUR

The end of the game in the Garden of Lust

He was constantly surrounded by gentle, friendly, warm-hearted women. When he was sick or sad his mother, who owned a small children's clothes shop, sat by him all night long holding his hand.

Borneman is the author of a dozen or so books on sexual research. It is hard to imagine him as a valiant Carthusian in retirement. One imagines him rather blissfully splashing around in the warm pools of sensuality.

But he is no longer doing that. He still wears his white hair combed back, as was to be expected. His eyes still look frequently as if they are unseeing.

He admits that he is embittered, irritated, disappointed. So much so that he has given up everything that concerned his discipline, the chairmanships of the German and Austrian societies for sexual research as well as his post as lecturer at Salzburg University.

He only struggles with the manuscript of *Der Zukunft der Liebe*, because he has had no advance and is a responsible man, until having nothing to do in his large, empty house, distant from all company, he would be still more depressed than he is after the death of his wife without it.

He once wrote fluently, filling pages without the assistance of a secretary. Now he has to wrestle with every sentence.

Only when he speaks of his youth in protected surroundings in Berlin do his eyes light up.

That is understandable. His youth was perfect for a man who was to become successful in sexual research.

He was never aggressive towards women. He always waited until they "gave him a sign." He said: "Unlike the feminists I find it flattering to be regarded as a sex object by a worthy partner."

For 40 years he worked on and researched *Das Patriarchat*, his book that he had hoped generously to press into the hands of the feminists as the sharpest weapon in their battle to re-ignite power, which men had robbed them of in what amounts to a coup d'état.

He said: "Then men assigned women to the home while they went off on the hunt, the best way of getting experience, knowledge and possessions."

The feminist movement was not grateful to him for his aggressive book which he hoped would become its Bible. Feminists regarded him as a softie who wanted to smuggle himself into the women's camp with dirty tricks so as to be flattered and spoiled there.

The feminists said they would rather have a "male chauvinist pig." They told him this to his face in public discussions and forcefully tore the microphone away from him.

Alice Schwarzer, the high priestess of the feminist movement, said to Borneman's wife, Eva: "How can an intelligent woman like you have such a revolting husband?"

Out of revenge the feminists grabbed whole passages from *Das Patriarchat* and gave them out as their own work.

So it was all in vain. Borneman confirmed this painfully and tore open the wrapping round the cork of a fresh bottle of sherry using his long, curling fingernails.

When he got behind the wheel of his car his enterprise came into play. He was once a rally-driver. He took the muddiest roads through the bare hills alongside the Danube. It had been raining for weeks on end.

One does not speak hadly of the Austrian president, Kurt Waldheim, here, and in some cases not even of Hitler. Borneman said: "You can eat very well in these parts. The more progressive the politicians are the worse the food."

We ate at a two-star restaurant. Nevertheless one of the diners at a neighbouring table left the spoon in his soup and another let his fork hover before his mouth when the good citizens clearly heard the words "sex" and "penis."

The truth is that people are still as prudish as ever. What has brought about Borneman's personal downfall is the fact that sexual research has had so little effect. To this can be added that *Das Patriarchat* had almost no effect on the feminist movement.

Prudery is obvious everywhere again. Homosexuality is again being banned. Sexual instruction in schools is being discontinued and Alice Schwarzer allies herself with the Pope in some respects.

Even sexual therapy, which sex researchers hoped would be public justification of their work, has proven to be a flop. It is mainly applied only in somatic cases.

It seems that sexual research has come to the end of the line. In despair one writer on the subject of another



Puzzled by feminist enmity... Ernest Borneman. (Photo: Brigitte Friedrich)

tries to make people tired with sex, prick up their ears with shock reports.

American researchers Masters and Johnson have stimulated the anxiety about AIDS so much that people in old people's homes are beginning to worry.

Shere Hite makes a fool of herself in her latest *Ulti Report* with unscientific data just thrown together. The same is true of June Reznick, head of the famous Kinsey Institute, who publishes her research findings in magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and *Playboy*.

Only the commercial aspect remains of the sexual revolution.

Unscrupulous business considerations combined with the new climate for law and order have encouraged politicians to say openly to the sector involved in sex research what they had long believed: "You indulge in orgies and you even want to have them paid for by research funds."

Now that no-one needs to think twice the best kept secret is common knowledge: most sexual researchers, whether male or female, are homosexuals.

What is meant by this is that this is why they are interested in the subject. Sex researchers interested in the opposite sex now have a better time of it.

The latest high priest of sex is Marcus Wawerzinek, a Hamburg researcher and therapist. He promises women not only from 30 to 50 orgasms an hour but personally leads them eagerly into this utopia of love.

Ernest Borneman sadly admits that Wawerzinek, who dominates sexual research now, is "a handsome, industrial man."

There is little goodwill among colleagues in sexual research. There is a lot of envy and jealousy. Secretly academics enquire if their colleague have indeed graduated, and maliciously they repeat tales of their errors and warn about their "therapies."

They argue so long about the order of names on a book jacket that the book never gets published.

The truth is that people are still as prudish as ever. What has brought about Borneman's personal downfall is the fact that sexual research has had so little effect. To this can be added that *Das Patriarchat* had almost no effect on the feminist movement.

Moving his 30,000-volume library of books on sex research is a visible sign of Ernest Borneman's capitulation. He has donated his collection of books to the students' library of the *Arbeiterkammer* in Vienna.

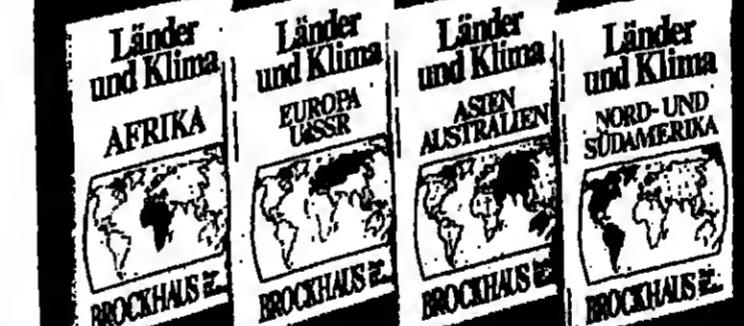
A colleague from Vienna noiselessly seals up the cartons of books. But his caution is not necessary.

Looking round at his life's work disappearing into the cartons he said: "We do not know still what sexuality is. The touch of skin to skin, warmth and the attempt to overcome loneliness — yes. But what else?" Even amateurs know that much.

Margit Sprecher

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Berlin 20 May 1988)

Meteorological stations all over the world



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■ HORIZONS

Spy hands East Bloc some unexpected spilled beans

In August 1985, Hansjoachim Tledge, the third in command of Bonn's counter-espionage service, the *Verfassungsschutz*, defected to East Berlin. Two long-serving Bonn government secretaries and a messenger disappeared at the same time. Another secretary was arrested. Tledge owed money. He had psychological problems and was an alcoholic. This was all known to his superiors. But nothing was done. In East Berlin, Tledge obviously told all he knew about operating and detecting methods, and he named names. In this article for the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, Ulrike Südmeyer explains that some of the greatest damage would have been caused by Tledge's revelations about the restrictions on spy-hunters in the West imposed by the constraints of a Western constitutional state.

A counter-espionage specialist says that what Hansjoachim Tledge told the East Germans about how spies in the West could not be limited was more serious than anything he told about how they were hunted.

He said that the East Berlin now had a more realistic idea of what they were up against. For years, they did not believe that spy hunters in the West had to observe these limits and were not able to tap and bug and record information at will.

East Bloc operators find it difficult to imagine limits imposed by, for example, legislation governing data protection or eavesdropping. They don't have any such restrictions themselves.

Of course, some restrictions were already known to the East. Arrested agents, for example, are not required to make a statement, must be told of their rights, are not allowed to be tortured and are not meant to be deprived of sleep.

Preparations are being made for an invasion-of-privacy law. The federal constitutional court is discussing the lengths to which privacy should be protected and how much right the state should have to know. This article looks at one controversial point which will figure strongly in any new law: It is a guideline aimed at increasing the effectiveness of counter-espionage work. Heinz-Joachim Melder wrote the story for the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

Lonely secretaries in Bonn government offices so often have been inveigled into working for East Berlin's secret service that they are classified as a high-risk group.

Now, new vetting procedures have been introduced with this in mind — and already some of the experiences have been bitter.

The guideline lays down that the spouses and partners of people working in "sensitive areas" should be more closely examined than before.

But what is entirely new is that people living in "circumstances similar to marriage" are to be included.

A secretary of state (senior official) in the Interim Ministry explained the changes by saying that experience had shown that people involved in espionage or "extreme activities" exerted a direct and strong influence on their

They also must have known that forced confessions are inadmissible and that convictions can only be obtained by use of proper evidence.

One (Western) spy hunter who did not want to be named said: "The fact is that they (East Bloc controllers and agents) have always overestimated us."

Another said that before Tledge defected, he had often remarked mockingly: "If only they knew all the things we can't do..." Now they would know. He would have had to tell, otherwise they would have thrown him back over the Wall."

If all he has said has been accepted, it will mean that fewer East Berlin agents will come to the West with false identification. "Freedom of movement means that anyone from the Soviet Union, Poland or East Germany can decide to come to the Federal Republic. That naturally includes spies."

Another counter-espionage official says: "Why should they bother with a false passport when they can travel just as freely on their own East German passport?"

One spy hunter says there are many avenues of investigation in the hunt for East Bloc spies which are ruled out because of data-protection legislation.

People from the West, for instance, who have come to East Germany might come under suspicion and perhaps be spoken to by counter-espionage officials.

"It would be interesting to find out the frequency of his visits to East Germany, if the visits were regular or irregular." But this sort of information is not allowed to be stored.

One official spoke of about 2,000 cases of suspicion a year that need to be investigated. "It could be a report from a grandma who often hears her neighbour's radio making piping noises. We have to find out if the man is a radio operator and if he merely has a faulty radio."



If they only knew, Tledge used to say. Well, now they do.

(Photo: Sean Slattery)

Between about 500 and 700 of these cases are investigated further and result in an average of between 30 and 50 arrests.

When evidence is being gathered for a prosecution, he said, it is clear that the *Verfassungsschutz* can gain access to items such as tax department information.

But where the case has not gone beyond that of mere suspicion, the tax department will not make its files available.

It was satisfying that police in neighbouring countries were no longer looking exclusively at their own problems. The dangers for other countries were also being taken into account.

He said that even after the weakening of the French terror group, Action Directe, the German Red Army Faction still retained the aim of developing an international front.

German terrorists did not stretch their feelings only as far as Belgium, Holland and France. "Suddenly, they are in Spain. People from the fringe of the terror scene in Germany turn up at events in Spain. And at the Anti-Imperialist Congress in Frankfurt in January 1987, there were fellowtravellers from almost all countries in western and southern Europe."

At first, German terrorists established contact with the underground organisation, Grapo.

ETA was a different case because of certain ideological differences. But now, ETA had decided not to maintain its stand-off and links had been established with the Germans. This was designed to win more international influence.

Boge said that members of the RAF who had arrest warrants out against them had possibly gone to France or Holland.

In addition, the BKA was also turning its attention to Central America as a possible bolt-hole for wanted terrorists.

The Middle East had decreased as a likely haven, although individuals and groups from out of the terror environment were still being infiltrated into Germany. It could not be ruled out that they were only waiting for the order to strike inside Germany.

The police had come across terrorist at two major local confrontations with authorities. One was in Düsseldorf and the other in Hamburg's Hafenstrasse, where squatters have occupied houses earmarked for demolition in an effort that has turned several times into violence.

There are now two levels of vetting action. It is planned to increase this to three. The first would involve merely a check to see if a name is stored on the computer.

The two higher categories would involve more intensive investigation of individuals.

The likelihood then is that some lonely secretaries in Bonn will be spending more instead of less time crying into their pillows at night.

Heinz-Joachim Melder (Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 29 April 1988)

Pan-European drive to hit terrorists

Senior policemen, legal experts and ministers from European Community states are trying to work out a common approach to the fight against terrorism.

Heinrich Boge, the chief of the German *Bundeskriminalamt*, (equivalent to the CID or FBI) told *Die Welt* that efforts were being made to dismantle all impediments to coordination and agreed procedures even as far as actual operations.

A specialist group comprising representatives from Community countries called Trevi (Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism, Violence, International) has submitted a report to the Council of Ministers.

Boge said that at a meeting in Germany of Community experts, Britain had made five suggestions for forging an anti-terrorist alliance.

He said Britain was following what was happening on the Continent with great interest because political terrorism operates internationally and national measures alone were not enough.

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Heinz-Joachim Melder (Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 29 April 1988)

Werner Kahl (Die Welt, Bonn, 4 May 1988)

■ THE MEDIA

A news agency changes its teleprinter to the world

The Hamburg-based news agency, Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa), is preparing to end its association with the American agency, UPI. It will probably link up with Reuters, which would renew an old partnership. Dpa and Reuters worked together for more than 100 years until 1971. In this story for the Bonn weekly, *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*, Hansjoachim Höhne looks at why dpa wants the change.

dpa is not one of them. It has to rely on cooperation with other agencies.

UPI, plagued with its cost problems, has slipped out of the top bracket in the international news market, leaving only three agencies providing serious alternatives. They are the other US news agency Associated Press (AP); the French agency Agence France-Presse (AFP); and the London-based Reuters.

These three have completely different financing structures and business philosophies.

UPI is a profit-oriented private company owned by two big publishers; AP is a cooperative of US newspaper publishers.

The Inter is primarily geared to the interests of the American media, which finance it.

As a "public corporation" the world's oldest news agency, AFP, is an independent enterprise.

The small French media market only accounts for about 10 per cent of its financial backing.

The rest comes mainly from the many AFP clients throughout the world and the French government, which subsidises over 50 per cent of the budget.

An agreement was reached to let dpa have a three-month insight into some of Reuters' services.

Since 25 April, Reuters German-language reports on international affairs produced in Bonn have been made available (free of charge) to the dpa head office in Hamburg.

If the arrangement is successful, it should be put on a contractual footing in July.

Reuters, the world's biggest business services agency, has always had a nose for a good deal.

But it was after Reuters almost doubled its charges in 1971 that dpa management decided to end the agreement — and thus end a partnership which had existed for more than 100 years.

The gap was filled by UPI. UPI had already been providing an international photo service for dpa for several years which had helped dpa maintain competitiveness with the other American agency, AP, and its offer to replace Reuters was too tempting.

AP and UPI at this stage had been



Dpa bringing lots of words to lots of people.

(Photo: dpa)

moving into the German market as direct competitors to dpa. Both were offering a worldwide news service, which also included German-language reports on events in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Both were able to back this with a worldwide photo service.

Photos from foreign countries were becoming more and more important to newspaper publishers, the main clients of the news agencies, because of the competition from television.

UPI helped dpa out of a tight spot in 1967 by discontinuing the distribution of its own facsimile transmitted photo service and leaving the evaluation of its worldwide photo service up to dpa.

No one at the time realised that UPI was already confronted by financial bottlenecks.

When editors in the head office of UPI Germany demanded a pay rise in February 1971 and then went on strike for a week, the management in New York started to get nervous.

Although UPI's German-language service earned it \$20,000 a month, it still reached a deal with dpa to cooperate in the non-pictorial field too — in other words, a deal to supply a competitor.

At the time, dpa hoped that two things would happen: that UPI would not ask for more money for its worldwide service than previously paid to Reuters, so that an inexpensive world-wide news network could be maintained; and that UPI would discontinue its German-language service and thus leave one competitor fewer on the market.

However, things did not work out as planned. The dismissed UPI German-language editors set up their own agency, the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa) in Bonn.

The media welcomed this step as a safeguard for the diversity of information.

Reuters also decided to make one of its founder's dreams come true by setting up its own news service in Germany.

So, instead of losing one competitor, dpa found itself faced by two new rivals on the German market.

Hansjoachim Höhne (Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 13 May 1988)

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